

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001415 TOSEC 250173

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DRAFTED BY:S/S:RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 001415 TOSEC 250173

NODIS

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 0002 ACTION SECSTATE 03 JAN 76

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0002

NODIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC XF

SUBJECT: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 000173

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

1. AMBASSADOR PICKERING HAS REQUESTED THAT I FORWARD FOLLOWING BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HIS JAN 3 CONVERSATION WITH PM RIFAI WHICH TOOK PLACE JUST PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN DEPARTMENT. FOLLOWING IS BASED ON NOTES ON POINTS AMBASSADOR GAVE ME ORALLY AND IS SUBJECT TO HIS REVIEW.

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PAGE 02 STATE 001415 TOSEC 250173

2. AMBASSADOR PASSED ON CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO RIFAI REGARDING

JAN 12 SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MIDEAST PUTTING PRESENTATION IN CONTEXT OF FORTHCOMING RIFAI VISIT TO ASAD IN DAMASCUS. RIFAI'S UNCLE ABDUL MUNEIM RIFAI AND JORDAN UN PERMREP SHARAF WHO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM SOVIET VISIT AND WHO WILL ACCOMPANY RIFAI TO SYRIA) WERE ALSO PRESENT.

3. RIFAI WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL MENTIONING US BELIEF IN IMPORTANCE OF ALL PARTIES MAINTAINING MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AS THEY APPROACH COUNCIL MEETING. RIFAI SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH THIS US ATTITUDE AND WOULD PASS THIS APPROACH ON SYRIANS IN HIS FORTHCOMING ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT WITH SYRIANS A ROUGH DRAFT ON POSSIBLE SC RESOLUTION.

4. RIFAI SAID HE THOUGHT ANY RESOLUTION SHOULD CONTAIN INTER ALIA LANGUAGE EMBODYING TWO PRINCIPLES A) SOME ALLUSION TO CONCEPT OF "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" OR SOME SIMILAR FORMULATION AND B) PALESTINIAN (I PRESUME PLO) PARTICIPATION IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS. RIFAI THEN ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE REFERRING TO "PALESTINIAN INTERESTS" IN AN SC RESOLUTION. RIFAI SAID HE MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "INTERESTS" AND "NATIONAL RIGHTS" WITH LATTER BEING A MORE SWEEPING BUT STILL UNDEFINED CONCEPT.

5. IN REPLY AMBASSADOR STATED THAT AS RIFAI KNEW HE IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE REGARDING SC RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR MADE PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT THE TERM "PALESTINIAN INTERESTS" HAS SOMETIMES BEEN MENTIONED IN PAST US-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH THE LANGUAGE AND THE METHOD OF ITS INCORPORATION IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE SC PROCEEDINGS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE A SIGNIFICANCE. IN ANY CASE AMBASSADOR WAS IN NO POSITION TO NEGOTIATE ISSUE.

6. RIFAI SAID JORDAN NEEDS TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER US WILL STICK ONLY WITH LANGUAGE OF RES 242 AND 338 OR WHETHER THERE IS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN US POSITION. HE URGED AMBASSADOR TO COME BACK WITH A REPLY BUT AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD MAKE NO PROMISES. RIFAI ADDED THAT ASAD TOLD HIM DAY AFTER ASAD MEETING WITH AHERTON THAT SYRIA TOO WISHES TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH US IN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BUT THERE MUST BE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN US POSITION.

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PAGE 03 STATE 001415 TOSEC 250173

7. RIFAI ALSO MENTIONED KING HUSSEIN HAS SENT LETTER TO SADAT ASKING TO SEND HIGH LEVEL JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO EGYPT TO COORDINATE POSITIONS ON SC MEETING.

8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE VIA NIACT IMMEDIATE TO EMBASSY LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING SUDDARTH

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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